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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : **AmEmbassy, HELSINKI**
TO : **THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.**

DESP. NO.

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REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
18	IRC-16	REP-1, RM/R-2, ICA-11, EUR-5, S/P-1, MCK
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SUBJECT: **Joint Weeka No 18**

OCB-2

Brief:

1. May Day
2. Shot Down in USSR -- One U.S. Unarmed Plane
3. Supreme Soviet Meeting
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5. NATO
6. Uprisings in Turkey and in Korea
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8. Finland-Soviet Bloc Exchanges
9. New FDF Automatic Rifle
10. FDF Receives New "KARPPA-SISU" ("Ermine") Heavy Tank Trucks

POLITICAL

1. May Day (UNCLASSIFIED)

The traditional May 1st labor rallies in Finland produced the usual speeches from labor leaders and politicians identified with the labor movement. The theme was frankly political with most speakers hewing close to the official line of the groups they represent. In general, the Social Democrats called for national elections and stressed the Communist danger and the seriously disruptive influence of the Skogists. The Skogists, utilizing an anti-communist framework, sought to demonstrate that they represent true Social Democracy and attacked the Social Democratic Party more vehemently than has recently been the case. The Communists stuck to traditional reviling of bourgeois and right-wing Social Democratic politicians and claimed that certain forces are seeking to undermine harmonious Finno-Soviet relations.

There were some variations in the themes of a few Social Democratic speeches. Parliamentary Speaker Fagerholm and newly-elected Social Democratic Council Chairman SUONTAUSTA spoke for moderation in political activity. Even Social Democratic Chairman VÄINÖ TANNER, in contrast to his aggressive inaugural speech at the Party Congress, let it be known that he is ready to discuss the cabinet question "if the Agrarians show a real desire to solve the crisis situation." He expressed doubts,

Working Party
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however, that the prospects are promising.

PSYCHOLOGICAL (UNCLASSIFIED)

2. Shot Down in USSR -- One U.S. Unarmed Plane

Five of Helsinki's seven morning dailies gave Page One display to the Soviet report that an "unmarked" American plane was shot down over Russian territory. The Swedish-language HUFVUDSTADSBLADET gave it banner headline treatment. Khrushchev's boast of the incident and the statements by President Eisenhower and NASA were coupled in the stories. Thus far the only editorial reaction appeared in HUFVUDSTADSBLADET, the Swedish-language daily of Helsinki: "Especially alarming is the manner in which Khrushchev, 'commissioned by the government,' told of the shooting down of an American plane."

3. Supreme Soviet Meeting

Noting the new faces in the Supreme Soviet and Central Committee of the Communist Party, MAAKANSA said it is difficult for outsiders to know the real reasons and implications behind the changes. MAAKANSA observed that KOSYGIN is a brilliant expert in economics. "His appointment may mean profound changes in the Soviet economy." The editorial added that "Western hopes that Premier Khrushchev would arrive at the summit meeting in a more conciliatory mood probably made a crash landing yesterday. He used strong words, made charges against West Germany's leaders, even called Vice President Nixon a supporter of the cold war."

4. Chessman's Execution

The Caryl Chessman case reached a news and editorial climax with his execution May 2. Helsinki newspapers alone devoted a total of 1,400 column inches to the case a week prior to and immediately following his execution.

HELSINGIN SANOMAT, MAAKANSA and NYA PRESSEN and the magazine KUVA-POSTI carried generous portions of a special Embassy-written backgrounder entitled "Caryl Chessman -- His Crimes, Convictions and Appeals." Several of the editorials attempted to view the execution with a high degree of objectivity. Most of the press was vitriolic in condemning capital punishment and the American system of jurisprudence for permitting such a lengthy period of trial for Chessman.

5. NATO

In reviewing the NATO ministerial meeting, HELSINGIN SANOMAT concluded: "The western powers have given hint about how they intend to appear at the Paris conference. Prime Minister Khrushchev will probably

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tell.... members of the Supreme Soviet, now gathered in Moscow, what kind of words the Soviet Union intends to use in Paris. It is seen, however, as a bad omen that he has threatened to use rocket weapons, as we have told in our news-columns."

ILTA-SANOMAT said "the achievement of unanimity of Istanbul was easy there is not time in the short summit meeting to discuss matters very thoroughly and possibilities to reach some agreements there are obviously small."

6. Uprisings in Turkey and in Korea

The Finnish press still follows with keen interest the difficulties in South Korea and Turkey. The student demonstrations in Istanbul and Ankara were reported heavily. The papers had generally four to five column stories with pictures but only few editorialized on the troubles.

KANSAN UUTISET, communist daily, attacked the concept of the free world's description of South Korea and Turkey as "the show-windows of democracy."

"It is typical for the United States to call the overthrown government of Syngman RHEE 'a criminal dictatorship which lasted for twelve years,' but before the big uprising of the masses it connived approvingly. The same applies in the question of Turkey, though Washington has surely been aware of the quality of the MENDERES rule -- otherwise it could be accused of irresponsible stupidity."

UUSI SUOMI said the students have demonstrated in Turkey because of the "glaring and narrow-minded oppressing of the freedom of speech." It added: "Menderes may once regret the manner in which he suppressed the manifestations of students' dissatisfaction."

7. Finnish War Film Criticized by TASS

"Paths of Battle," the first full-length documentary film presenting the Soviet-Finnish wars in 1939-45, was generally hailed by the Finnish press. The film, produced by Suomi-Filmi from material photographed during the wars, was attacked by the Russian official news agency TASS. TASS argued that "during past times some Finnish circles have started in the press a propaganda campaign against the Soviet Union. They have found as the theme of the propaganda the 20th anniversary of the war between Finland and the Soviet Union in 1939-40. In numerous tendentious articles and in radio and TV broadcasts these circles have tried to awaken distrust in the Soviet Union."

"The papers report," the article continued, "that the film was subjected to a 're-inspection' by officials of the Finnish Foreign Office."

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Thus, the appearance of this film.... shows that it has obviously been approved by the authorities."

Attacking the TASS position ILTA-SANOMAT said: "Persons who have written these critical words have not seen in the glorious days of our history anything else but condemnable things. At the same time they show how little they can understand the Finnish way of thinking." "What our people experienced in 1939-44 cannot be wiped out. The criticism can only be answered in one way: We cannot accept it."

The Communist KANSAN UUTISET said "the Soviet astonishment and disapproval are fully understandable."

8. Finland-Soviet Bloc Exchanges

943 Crossed the Border at Vaalimaa in April

The Finnish-Russian border at Vaalimaa was crossed by 943 passengers in April, HELSINGIN SANOMAT reported. The paper noted especially the growing share of Russian tourists. 208 Russians arrived in Finland via Vaalimaa in April as compared with 122 during the whole travel season last year.

A Finnish Delegation to Moscow Industrial Fair

An official Finnish delegation will be present at the opening of the 4th Finnish industrial fair in Moscow, May 10, HELSINGIN SANOMAT reported.

The delegation is headed by Mr. Ahti KARJALAINEN, Minister of Trade and Industry. The other members are Mr. Reino R. LEHTO and Gunnar KORKONEN of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Minister Olavi MUNKKI and Mr. Olavi MATTEILA of the Foreign Ministry.

MILITARY

ARMY

9. New FDF Automatic Rifle (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Finnish Defense Forces have publicly announced the development of a new automatic rifle by VALMET OY, of Jyväskylä, to replace the Russian M1891 bolt-action model now in service. The weapon is described as being gas-operated, magazine fed and capable of delivering semi-automatic or full automatic fire at a rate of 650 rounds per minute. The weight of the rifle without magazine is 3.4 kg, length 920mm, and the magazine is 30 rounds of the new Soviet 7.62mm cartridge.

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10. FDF Receives New "KÄRPPÄ-SISU" ("Ermine") Five Ton Trucks (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Finnish Defense Forces have received fifty (50) new "KÄRPPÄ-SISU" ("Ermine") five ton trucks for use by the Panzer Brigade at the Hämeenlinna and Lahti garrisons. The vehicles were assembled at the SUOMEN AUTOTEOLLISUUS plant at Karjaa, and represent one of the largest domestic orders of the FDF since World War II.

Comment (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The Defense Ministry experienced some difficulty in obtaining appropriations for the vehicles as the cost of domestic procurement was over 30% greater than the market price of like items abroad. Continued procurement of SISU trucks is expected, however, to assist the home industry and to improve the critical shortage of road transportation in the Army. The Defense Establishment has an immediate need for 500 more motor vehicles.

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